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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
5 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
6 AT SEATTLE

7 CHRISTOPHER J HADNAGY et al.,

8 Plaintiff(s),

9 v.

10 JEFF MOSS et al.,

11 Defendant(s).

CASE NO.
2:23-cv-01932-BAT

**ORDER REGARDING INITIAL
DISCLOSURES, JOINT STATUS
REPORT, AND
EARLY SETTLEMENT**

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13 **I. CONSENT TO PROCEED BEFORE A MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

14 On December 28, 2023, the Court issued a Notice of Assignment to a U.S.
15 Magistrate Judge and Declination of Consent Form notifying the Parties this case has
16 been assigned to United States Magistrate Judge Brian A. Tsuchida for all purposes,
17 including trial, final entry of judgment, and direct review by the Ninth Circuit Court
18 of Appeals. *See* Second Amended General Order 02-19. The Parties were advised
19 consent to a Magistrate Judge is voluntary and any party may decline consent and request
20 the case be assigned to a District Judge by signing and returning the Declination of
21 Consent Form to the Court no later than January 4, 2024. The parties were further
22 advised if the Court did not receive the Declination of Consent Form by the deadline,
23 each party will be deemed to have knowingly and voluntarily consented to proceed
24 before Magistrate Judge Tsuchida. As no party has declined consent by the deadline,
25 the Court deems the Parties have knowingly and voluntarily consented to proceed before
26 Magistrate Judge Tsuchida. If this is incorrect, the parties should immediately contact

1 Courtroom Deputy Andy Quach at andy_quach@wawd.uscourts.gov and the case will be
2 reassigned to a District Judge.

3 **II. INITIAL SCHEDULING DATES**

4 The Court sets the following dates for initial disclosure and submission of the
5 Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan:

6 Deadline for Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) Conference: 2/2/2024

7 Initial Disclosures Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1): 2/16/2024

8 Combined Joint Status Report and Discovery
9 Plan as Required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)
10 and Local Civil Rule 26(f): 3/1/2024

11 The deadlines above may be extended only by the Court. Any request for an
12 extension should be made by email to Courtroom Deputy, Andy Quach at
13 andy_quach@wawd.uscourts.gov. The parties are directed to meet and confer before
14 contacting the Court to request an extension.

15 If this case involves claims which are exempt from the requirements of Fed. R.
16 Civ. P.26(a) and 26(f), please notify Courtroom Deputy, Andy Quach, by email.

17 **III. JOINT STATUS REPORT & DISCOVERY PLAN**

18 All counsel and any pro se parties are directed to confer and provide the Court
19 with a combined Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan (the "Report") by
20 March 1, 2024. This conference shall be by direct and personal communication,
21 preferably a face-to-face meeting, but may be by a telephonic conference. The Report
22 will be used to determine if a Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 conference would be helpful and to set a
23 schedule for the prompt completion of the case.

24 The Report must contain the following information by corresponding
25 paragraph numbers:

- 26 1. A statement of the nature and complexity of the case.

1 2. A proposed deadline for the joining of additional parties.

2 3. A discovery plan that states, by corresponding paragraph letters (A, B, etc.),
3 the parties' views and proposals on all items set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)(3), which
4 includes the following topics:

5 (A) initial disclosures;

6 (B) subjects, timing, and potential phasing of discovery;

7 (C) electronically stored information;

8 (D) privilege issues;

9 (E) proposed limitations on discovery; and

10 (F) the need for any discovery related orders.

11 4. The parties' views, proposals, and agreements, by corresponding paragraph
12 letters (A, B, etc.), on all items set forth in LCR 26(f)(1), which includes the
13 following topics:

14 (A) prompt case resolution;

15 (B) alternative dispute resolution;

16 (C) related cases;

17 (D) discovery management;

18 (E) anticipated discovery sought;

19 (F) phasing motions;

20 (G) preservation of discoverable information;

21 (H) privilege issues;

22 (I) Model Protocol for Discovery of ESI, and;

23 (J) alternatives to Model Protocol.

24 5. The date by which discovery can be completed.

25 6. Whether the case should be bifurcated by trying the liability issues before
26 the damages issues, or bifurcated in any other way.

1 7. Whether the pretrial statements and pretrial order called for by LCR 16(e),
2 (h), (i), and (k), and 16.1 should be dispensed with in whole or in part for the sake of
3 economy.

4 8. Whether the parties intend to utilize the Individualized Trial Program set
5 forth in LCR 39.2 or any ADR options set forth in LCR 39.1.

6 9. Any other suggestions for shortening or simplifying the case.

7 10. The date the case will be ready for trial. The Court expects that most civil
8 cases will be ready for trial within a year after filing the Joint Status Report and
9 Discovery Plan.

10 11. Whether the trial will be jury or non-jury.

11 12. The number of trial days required.

12 13. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all trial counsel.

13 14. The dates on which the trial counsel may have complications to be
14 considered in setting a trial date.

15 15. If, on the due date of the Report, all defendant(s) or respondents(s) have not
16 been served, counsel for the plaintiff shall advise the Court when service will be
17 effected, why it was not made earlier, and shall provide a proposed schedule for the
18 required Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) conference and Fed. R. Civ.P. 26(a) initial disclosures.

19 16. Whether any party wishes a pretrial Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 conference with
20 the judge prior to the entry of any order pursuant to Rule 16 or setting of a schedule for
21 this case. If yes, indicate whether a party wishes an in-person or telephonic conference.

22 17. List the date(s) that each and every nongovernmental corporate party filed
23 its disclosure statement pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1 and LCR 7.1.

24 If the parties are unable to agree on any part of the Report, they may answer in
25 separate paragraphs. No separate reports are to be filed. If the parties wish to have a
26 status conference with the Court at any time during the pendency of this action, they

1 should notify Courtroom Deputy, Andy Quach, by email.

2 **IV. PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSIBILITY**

3 Plaintiff's counsel (or plaintiff, if pro se), will be responsible for starting the
4 communications needed to comply with this Order.

5 **V. JUDGE SPECIFIC PROCEDURAL INFORMATION**

6 All counsel and unrepresented parties should review Judge Tsuchida's web page
7 for procedural information applicable to cases before Judge Tsuchida. The judge's web
8 pages, in addition to the Local Rules, Electronic Filing Procedures for Civil and
9 Criminal Cases, court forms, instruction sheets, and General Orders, can be found on
10 the Court's website at www.wawd.uscourts.gov.

11 **VI. EARLY SETTLEMENT CONSIDERATION AND NOTIFICATION**

12 If settlement is achieved, counsel shall immediately notify Courtroom Deputy,
13 Andy Quach.

14 The parties are responsible for complying with the terms of this Order.

15 DATED: The 5th of January 2024

18 *s/ Brian A. Tsuchida*
19 BRIAN A. TSUCHIDA
United States Magistrate Judge